June 6, 2017

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Jr.
California State Assembly
California State Capitol Building, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) Counties and Cities; contracts for personal services -- OPPOSE

Dear Assemblyman Sawyer-Jones;

On behalf of the Madera County Board of Supervisors, I am submitting this letter to establish our opposition to Assembly Bill 1250. This legislation will add unnecessary layers of bureaucracy and oversight for operational considerations that should be left to local jurisdictions. Counties and cities are constantly seeking ways to provide vital services to residents in cost effective ways. Many times these activities require specialized knowledge or experiences that local government does not retain in house. Assembly Bill 1250 would limit the county’s ability to hire needed expertise and create additional cost in management requirements.

While Assembly Bill 1250 claims to increase transparency in local government contracting the reality is that it increases costs, establishes additional red-tape and most importantly does not improve the basic services that local governments provide. Madera County has a number of checks and balances in place that ensure contracts are executed in a way that most benefits the public. Madera County currently meets the federal reporting guidelines which outlines that single audit requirement for any contract exceeding $500,000. Adding additional requirements duplicates workloads and impacts bottom line. Madera County contracts first come to the elected Board of Supervisors meaning that a legislative body already exists to make sure that funds are utilized in a meaningful way. Additional oversight is counterproductive.

For these reasons and others, the Madera County Board of Supervisors is in strong opposition of AB 1250.

Sincerely,

Max Rodriguez
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
    Senator Anthony Cannella
    Senator Tom Berryhill
    Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.